

19923 Gunn Highway
Odessa, FL 33556
March 5, 2001

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U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket No. 98P-0151/CP1

To whom it may concern,

I would like to urge the FDA to grant the petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals for food. My concern is related both to the question of the healthfulness of the food that results from the slaughter of such an animal, and to the abuse the animal must endure until its death.

At a time when concerns about BSE are rampant in Europe and certain feed mills in this country have admitted to processing materials that might transmit this disease, it would seem to be a very rational move. One animal that is contaminated could affect hundreds of people.

It is impossible to move a downed animal in an humane manner. That means it will be kicked, shoved, pulled and "hot-shotted" into position, even if it has a broken leg. The stockyards have shown that they are incapable of self-regulation, so the best solution is simply to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals. It will not be in the financial interests of anyone involved to transport the animal in such a condition, and hopefully this will reduce the incidence of downed animals.

I would hope that I and the millions of other citizens in this country can depend on FDA to protect us from the threat of contaminated meat supplies in this matter. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

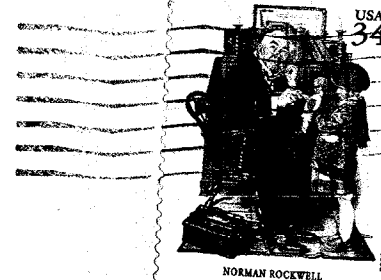
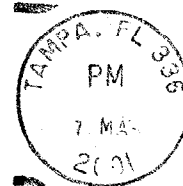
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98P-0151

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